

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector having a distal end and a proximal end and comprising at least two stamped pieces of sheet stock which are laminated together and at least one lumen extending from the distal end to the proximal end.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector of claim 1, wherein the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector defines a connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector ~~to transfer ultrasonic energy to the laminated ultrasonic waveguide~~ receive ultrasonic energy from an acoustic transmission assembly.
5. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector of claim 1, comprising first and second stamped half pieces of sheet stock which are laminated together, wherein each of the stamped first and second half pieces of sheet stock defines half of a cylindrical connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector which has threads stamped into an interior surface of each half cylindrical connector, such that the first and second half pieces define a cylindrical connector having threads on the interior surface thereof for providing a threaded connector to the ~~laminated ultrasonic waveguide~~ an acoustic transmission assembly.

6. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector of claim 1, wherein a distal portion of each of the stamped pieces of sheet stock has a longitudinal rib stamped therein extending along the longitudinal axis of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector to provide lateral stiffness for the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

7. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide of claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic waveguide end effector comprises first outer, second inner and third outer stamped pieces of sheet stock which are laminated together, wherein each of the first, second and third stamped pieces of sheet stock defines a portion of a cylindrical connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector which has threads stamped into an interior surface of the cylindrical connector, such that the first, second and third stamped pieces define the cylindrical connector having threads stamped into the interior surface of the cylindrical connector for providing a threaded connector to the laminated ultrasonic waveguide an acoustic transmission assembly.

8. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector of claim 7, wherein the first and third outer laminated pieces of sheet stock extend from the proximal end of the ultrasonic waveguide end effector for a portion of the length of the ultrasonic waveguide end effector, ~~and the second inner laminated piece of sheet stock extends for at least a portion of the length of the ultrasonic waveguide.~~

9. (Currently amended) The laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector of claim 8, wherein the second inner laminated piece of sheet stock extends to a distal active tip end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The ultrasonic waveguide of claim 1, wherein a piece of sheet stock is mounted and secured to longitudinally extending slots in an outer circumference of a separate threaded connector.

12. (Currently amended) A method of fabricating a laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector having a distal end and a proximal end comprising stamping and forming at least two stamped pieces of sheet stock to form parts of the body of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector and at least one lumen extending from the distal end to the proximal end, and laminating together the at least two stamped pieces of sheet stock to form the body of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising fabricating an ultrasonic surgical instrument comprising an ~~active tip end-effector~~ acoustic transmission assembly, which ~~is placed in contact with tissue of a patient to couple ultrasonic energy transferred along the longitudinal axis of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide to the tissue coupled to the laminated~~ ultrasonic end effector.

14. (Canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising defining a connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector to ~~transfer ultrasonic energy to the laminated ultrasonic waveguide~~ couple to an acoustic transmission assembly.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, including stamping and forming first and second half pieces of sheet stock while defining in each of the stamped first and second half pieces of sheet stock half of a cylindrical connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector by stamping threads into an interior surface of each half of the

cylindrical connector, such that the first and second half pieces define a cylindrical connector to having threads on the interior surface thereof for providing a threaded connector to the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, including stamping and forming a longitudinal rib in a distal portion of each of the stamped pieces of sheet stock which extends along a longitudinal axis of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector to provide lateral stiffness for the laminated ultrasonic waveguide.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, including stamping and forming first outer, second inner and third outer stamped pieces of sheet stock while defining in each of the first, second and third stamped pieces of sheet metal a portion of a cylindrical connector at a proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide by stamping threads into an interior surface of the cylindrical connector, such that the first, second and third stamped pieces define the cylindrical connector having threads stamped into the interior surface of the cylindrical connector for providing a threaded connector to the ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

19. (Currently amended) The method of fabricating an ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 18, including stamping and forming the first and third outer laminated pieces of sheet stock to extend from the proximal end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector for a portion of the length of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide, end effector and ~~stamping and forming the second inner laminated piece of sheet stock to extend for at least a portion of the length of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, including forming the second inner laminated piece of sheet stock to extend to a distal tip end of the laminated ultrasonic waveguide end effector.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, including mounting and securing a piece of sheet stock to longitudinally extending slots in an outer circumference of a separate threaded connector.